



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of

TOMOYUKI HIROTA,
MASAYUKI YAMAMOTO and
HIKARU KAGOURA

Serial No. 09/840,845

Filed April 24, 2001

For ELECTRONIC COMMERCE
SUPPORT SYSTEM

) Group Art Unit 3627
)
)
) James A. Kramer, Examiner
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)

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

As a preliminary amendment in the attached Request for Continued Examination of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/840,845, the Applicants, through their attorney, amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.